

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR, EEC, ETRD, FR

SUBJECT: POULTRY/COGNAC

"EUROPE" (AGENCE INTERNATIONALE D'INFORMATION POUR LA PRESSE)
CARRIES AN ARTICLE ON THE POULTRY/COGNAC DISPUTE IN ITS
AUGUST 25-25, 1976 ISSUE. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS ARE
EXCERPTED FROM THIS ARTICLE:

"THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION OF
OPENING PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THE 20TH SEPTEMBER IN ORDER TO
EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING DUTIES ON COGNAC IN
REPLY TO THE EEC'S MAINTAINING RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF
CHICKENS FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS
REACTED BY DEPLORING THIS MOVE: "THE EEC HAS NO DEBT TO PAY
IN THE FORM OF CONCESSIONS ON POULTRY AND HAS NEVER PARTICIPATED
IN ANY AGREEMENT PROVIDING THIS TYPE OF CONCESSION." THIS WEEK
MR. LARDINOIS WARNED THE UNITED STATES AGAINST CONTINUING A
POLICY OF TENSION OR MISTRUST WHICH COULD LEAD TO SOME SORT OF
RUPTURE.

"THIS NEW AFFAIR GOES BACK A LONG WAY. IN 1962 THE UNITED
STATES HAD IMPOSED A DUTY OF 1.25 DOLLARS PER GALLON ON BOTTLED
COGNAC AND OF 1 DOLLAR ON COGNAC IN CASKS. IN 1963, WHEN
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THE ORGANISATION OF THE MARKET IN POULTRY SECTOR LED TO

THE VERY LARGE DECREASE IN EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY IN GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES WITHDREW THIS CONCESSION RAISING THE FIXED DUTY TO 5 DOLLARS. THE 1974, AT THE TIME OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS, UNDER ARTICLE XXIV:6 (ENLARGEMENT OF THE EEC) THE UNITED STATES CONCLUDED ARRANGEMENTS WITH FRANCE BILATERALLY, PROVIDING FOR A RELAXATION OF THE DUTIES ON COGNAC, IN RETURN FOR PARIS ACCEPTING A REDUCTION OF THE EEC CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TOBACCO. THIS ARRANGEMENT WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS NOW THINKING OF CANCELLING, HAS NEVER IN FACT BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

"IT ALSO APPEARS FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE, THAT THE 1974 AGREEMENT WAS MADE WITH A VIEW TO FRANCE TAKING UNILATERAL MEASURES IN THE VETERINARY SPHERE TO ALLOW THE EXPORT OF AMERICAN TURKEYS, AND APPEALING TO HER PARTNERS TO RELAX COMMUNITY REGULATIONS ON THE SLUICE-GATE PRICES. NOTHING OF THE KIND TRANSPIRED, AND THIS EXPLAINS THE NEW THREATS FROM THE UNITED STATES." HINTON

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